

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-13 are currently being amended, and new claims 14 and 15 have been added.

This amendment adds and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action mailed June 4, 2003, claims 1, 5, 8 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,246,486 to Takahashi; claims 2, 6, 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,115,132 to Nakatsuma et al.; claims 3, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,933,584 to Maniwa; and claims 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Nakatsuma and further in view of Maniwa. These rejections, to the extent that they may be applied to the presently pending claims, are traversed for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a feature in which an image-forming-job managing apparatus transmits an image forming job stored in a job storage section to another image-forming-job managing apparatus based on a job output designation change command issued from a terminal. Presently pending claims 8 and 12 have been amended in a similar manner (see transferring means of claim 8 and transferring step of claim 12). Support for this newly-added feature can be found, for example, in Figure

6 of the drawings, STG, and the relevant description of that figure in the specification.

In contrast, Takahashi discloses that a print job stored in a print queue is transferred by a job transfer section simply to the printer corresponding to the print queue, whereby the print job is not transferred to another printer not corresponding to the print queue. Accordingly, the job transfer section of presently pending claim 1 (and its counterpart features in presently pending claims 8 and 12) is patentably distinct from the job transfer section of Takahashi.

Since neither Nakatsuma nor Maniwa makes up for the above-mentioned deficiency in Takahashi, all of the presently pending are believe to be patentably distinct from the combined teachings of the cited art of record.

The dependent claims are patentable due to their dependencies on their respective base claims, as well as for the specific features recited in those claims. For example, dependent claims 2, 9 and 13 have been amended to recite that the image-forming-job managing apparatus transfers a machine information of another image forming apparatus managed by another image-forming-job managing apparatus based on a server search command issued from the terminal. Support for this newly-added feature may be found in Figure 6 of the drawings, ST4, and in the description of that figure in the specification.

The above-mentioned feature in claims 2, 9 and 13 is not believed to be disclosed, taught or suggested by the combined teachings of the cited art of record.

Dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 10 and 11 have been amended to recite that the image-forming-job managing apparatus changes the information of the image forming job stored in a job storage section based on the job information change command issued from the terminal. Support for this newly-added feature may be found in Figure 6 of the drawings, STS, and in the description of that figure in the specification).

Dependent claims 5 and 6 have been amended to recite that the image-forming-job managing apparatus transmits print control information of the image forming job stored in the job storage section based on the job display command issued from the terminal. Support for this newly-added feature may be found in Figure 6 of the drawings, ST3, and in the description of that figure in the specification.

The above-mentioned feature in claims 5 and 6 is not believed to be disclosed, taught or suggested by the combined teachings of the cited art of record.

New claims 14 and 15 have been added, whereby the features of these new claims can be found in Figures 3 and 5 of the drawings and in the description of those figures in the specification. The features in new claims 14 and 15, which allows a user at the terminal to make a rational determination as to which printer to switch a print job to, are not disclosed or suggested by the cited art of record.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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